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Brentwood, Essex..
1961.

THE BREAKING OF THE STORM

Four hundred years ago in April 1561 there took place the first assault upon Catholic houses where Mass was being said in despite of the new laws. As the families and houses involved were in this county, these incidents will have a special interest for readers of the Essex Recusant. Before setting out the documents which tell of these first raids it may be well briefly to recall what lead up to them.

The Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity had been carried in the first Parliament of Elizabeth, notwithstanding the opposition of the bishops. These Acts were to go into force in June 1559. On May 30th, Bishop Bonner of London was removed; his diocese included the county of Essex. A royal visitation was at once put in hand and it began, in the southern province, with the diocese of London. Proceedings began in the chapter house of St. Paul's on August 11th. On the following day the cathedral clergy were summoned and ordered to subscribe to the oath of supremacy. The three Essex Archdeacons, Thomas Darbyshire of Essex (1), John Standish of Colchester (2) and William Chedsey of Middlesex which took in a small part of Essex (3), all refused to sign. So did Henry Cole, the Dean of St. Paul's (4). They were all removed from their offices. (5).

Then, to secure the subscription of the Essex Clergy, visitors were sent to hold sessions in various centres. At Weald they obtained 44 signatures, at Chelmsford 79, at Stortford 54, at Colchester 38 and at Dunmow 44 - a total of 259: this included a few of the Herts clergy. (6) These signatures are at Lambeth; many of them are illegible. Those who did not put in an appearance at this first session were not at this time molested; but those who came and refused to sign seem to have been at once deprived.

The incumbents of the following parishes were deprived: Aldham, Asheldham, Boxted, Braintree, Copford, Corringham, Downham, East Donyland, Great Canfield, Great Henny, Great Horkesley, High Ongar, Kelvedon, Little Sampford, Little Sambridge, Mount Bures, Orsett, Ramsey, Shalford, Shellow Bowells, Shenfield, Sturmer, Tendring, White Notley, Widford, Wivenhoe. (7) This is a larger number than that commonly given (8), but it is not a very considerable one. It is clear

that there was not a great deal of active opposition to the oath from the general body of the Essex Clergy.

It was to be anticipated that, having dealt with the clergy in this way, the new Protestant bishops would have at once commenced to put into practice the emphatic and detailed injunctions given them by Parliament to see that the laity accepted the settlement of religion. It is to be noted that the Government had placed the onus of seeing to this upon the religious authorities. The Act ends with these words: "The queen's most excellent majesty, the Lords temporal and all the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, do in God's name require and charge all archbishops, bishops, and other ordinaries, that they shall endeavour themselves to the uttermost of their knowledges that the due and true execution hereof may be had through their dioceses"(9). Why was it that the bishops took two years before they started to put down forcibly the saying of Mass? Surely the answer lies in the acute difficulties of the newly established Church of England. An analysis of the first Return of the Bishop of London (that of 1560) (10) shows that the parishes were in a lamentable state and that the first pressing pre-occupation was the creation of ministers to staff the churches, and generally to establish the new religious observances; this had to take precedence during these first two or three years over the suppression of the old religion.

By 1561, however, things were much better for them. Grindall the new bishop of London had ordained 140-150 to fill parishes (11). It is clear from his published correspondence and that of Archbishop Parker of Canterbury, that they now felt themselves to be firmly established. But the impetus for the attack upon the houses of the laity still did not come from the bishops. It came from Cecil himself and was due, as he tells in a letter to Throckmorton, to two factors: his need to distract the Queen from her embarking upon marriage with Dudley, and his equal anxiety to rebuke "the Papist humours, which by the Queen's lenity grow too rank." (12)

What happened to give Cecil his chance of attacking the Mass centres that had been set up was this. A priest, John Coxe alias Devon, was seized at Gravesend on April 14th, 1561, and questioned by the local J.P. He was travelling overseas

with messages to well-known exiles abroad and there was little difficulty for Cecil to alarm the Queen into thinking that some serious plot was maturing, especially since this priest confessed to having said Masse and being associated especially with those who were of the late Queen's Council or household.

John Coxe was sent to the Bishop of London, Edmund Grindall to be examined by him. The following documents tell the story of what transpired.

The first is the letter which Grindall wrote to Cecil after conducting the enquiry:

"I send you enclosed the Confession of Coxe, alias Devon, the prieste, for Masse matters, taken this presente daye after receipte of your letters. Surely for this Magicke and Conjuratioun your Lordships of the Counsell must apoynte some extraordinarie punishement for example. My Lorde cheife Justice sayeth the temporall law will nott medle with him; our ecclesiasticall punishement is to slender for so grevous offences. I thought it my parte to offer it to your consideration; & so wishe you in Godde well to fare.

17^o Aprilis 1561

Yours in Christo

Edmund London. 13."

The Confession of Coxe, which he had made to the J.P. and which the bishop enclosed to the Council, is as follows:

"The examynacion of John Devon, clarke, taken before Hew Darell, Esquire, one of the Queenes Majesties Justice of her graces peace, within her countie of Kent, the xiiijth of Apryll Anno 1561.

"First the sayd John Devon dyd com to Sir Thomas Whartons house (knyght) at New Hall in Essex on Candlemas even last past with ij other gentlewomen and also the sayd John Devon beyng required to com up to here Masse at a back doore by one Jollye a preest, who sayd Masse in Latten in a chamber next within my ladye's chamber. At which Masse tyme they dyd bear candells in there hands.

"And there was also mynystered that daye holly water and

..holly breade.

"Item within sevenyght next following upon a Frydaye, the sayd Jolly, clerk, ij gentlewomen aforesayd, and the sayd John Devon, was at a nother Masse in the sayd chamber, sayd by the sayd Jolly in Latten.

"Item there is in the sayd chamber a Rood of tymber & ij pyctures of Marye and John standyng in a wyndow: and a board with certen paynted Images upon the alter.

"Item the within names John Devon, clerk, saeth that on Tewesdaye next following the Fryday within wrytten, he came to Sir Edward Walgrave knyght his house at Borley in Essex and here he made his aboade one moneth in the company of Doctor Rambredge, late Deane of Lychfelde, and daylye dyd eat & drynck at the onely table of the sayd Sir Edward Walgrave.

"Also he had of my sayd ladye ij portasses in Laten, and one Mattyns booke of Usum Sarum.

"Also John Devon had one payr of bells of one M^rParpoynt late lyeng in Sir Edward Walgrave house, to be delyvered to one Doctor Jacob, or ells to the late master of the Charter house here.

"Item Mr Walgrave dyd gyve the sayd John Devon at his departure xx and promysed to gyve hym £x a yere for his exhibition, to be payd to hym by Sir Francys Inglefelde.

"Item aboute Julii last past Mr Edward Thurland dyd gyve hym then £x towards his learnyng beyond sea.

"Item this hollywater sprynkle was delyvered to the said John Devon to carye to some Relygyouse man to praye for a olde woman: the owner of the sprynkle and the whych old woman her name he knoweth not, but she dwelleth in Westmynster.

"Furder he saieth he dyd lye in a beademans house in Westminster, whose name he knoweth not, ever synce Mydlent Sundaye last; and there he kept companye with Thomas Langdon, late a monk of Westmynster, who wylled hym to copie owte certen articles or notes of Mr Watsons Sermons in a paper wrytten. And furder the sayd Langdon sayd to

..John Devon that this Religion was not the true Religion
but the olde Religion was.

(signed) by me John Devon
the wytnes of the confession aforesaid
by me Hugh Darrell" (14)

Since Devon was a clergyman he was sent to his Bishop for
further questioning and the questions with his answers are as
follows:

- "1. Fyrste whether he herd or sawe more Masses than 2 att
Sir Thomas Wharton's?

He sayeth no moo

2. Whether the sayd Sir Thomas was privie to his goynge
over sea or committed anye message unto the sayd Coxe?

Respondet: he knew of his voyage over butt neyther
gave him letter, mesage nor token: some money was
geven him by my ladye.

3. Whether he sawe or herd anie Masse at Sir Edw. Walgraves
duringe his abode ther; or vehement suspicions of Masse
to be sayed by Dr. Rambridge or other in the same house?

Respondet: he sawe 2 Masses sayd att Sir Edwards
Walgraves by one Doctor Rambridge, att which Mr
Walgrave & my Ladye, this examine & a boy of Mr
Rambriges were presente.

4. Item whether he hadde anye letters or message from the
sayd Sir Edward to Sir Francis Inglefelde or anye other
persons beyonde the seas?

Respondet negative: but my Ladye tolde him Sir
Edwarde Walgrave hade lately wrytten over, & taken
order for & x yerely exhibition to be payd by Sir
ffrancis Inglefelde or by his apoyntment.

5. Item whatt countrey man is Doctor Jacob named in his
Confession?

He sayeth Doctor Jacob dwelleth in Myddelborowe in
Heland, butt can speake Englishe & is acqaynted
with Mrs Parpoynte ones a nun, they being att Mr
Walgraves house: which Mrs Perpoynte was also presente
att one Masse ther.

..6. What is the beadmans name where he lodged in Westminster & the woman's name that hath the holye water sprynkle?

The beadmans name in Westminster is Goodemanne, the olde womans name is Pallydayes wiffe.

7. Item whether he heard or sawe Masse sayd by one Langdon or other persons duryng his lodging at Westminster?

He confesseth that both he himselfe & one Langdon, late monk of Westminster, sayd Masse in one Stubbes his house in Westminster in the broode gallarie.

8. Item whether he hath sayed or ben present att Masse sithence Midsomer Anno primo of the Queens Majesties regne, how often, in what places & what companie?

He confesseth that he hath sayd Masses at my Ladye Carewes howse besydes S. Dunstan's in the weste, she beinge presente; and also ones or twise at Winchester, which was at Mr Bilson's, prebendarie ther his procurmente, for hallowinge of certeyn coniurations to those of the sayd Bilson who practised by those meanes to obteyne the love of my Ladye Cotton, the late wife of Sir Richard Cotton, knighte.

(signed) by me John Cox, alias Devon" (15)

As a result of these confessions and answers of John Coxe, the Privy Council ordered the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, to search the houses of Sir Thomas Wharton and Sir Edward Waldgrave. He did so and sent the following account to the Council:

"After my hartie commendations to your good Lords. Like as accordinge to your pleasures I have apprehended diverse and sundrey persons for usinge unlawfull practises to the breache of good order and religion established, the greatest parte of whose confessions & examynations I have herewith adressed to your honours: so likewise I have thought mete t'advertise your lordships of the conformitie and obstinacie of suche of them as this cryme hath impeched. Firste upon my comynge to Newe Hall enteringe the house and charginge my men with keepinge the gates, and others with back dores and wayes, to th'intent no man might escape that there shuld be found neyther anything imbeseled,

..I called Mr Wharton presently before me with all his men and servantes, committinge them by and by to severall custodie, and thereupon breke to Mr Wharton suche pece of my commission as I thought mete to be imparted to him; who then in verie humble maner submitted hymself to the great clemencie of the Queenes majestie even of hymselfe declarynge unto me howe that only touching the Masse was he an offender: but (sayeth he) concerninge my duetie besydes, if ye shall finde any juste matter ageinste me, I do utterly renounce all mercie and favour. And so I toke hym with me and made serch in all parts of his house, so nere as I coulde for the thinges by your Lorships specially noted unto me. And besides the trumpery which in scedule shall appere unto you, I colde neither in casketts, chists or other places fynde any cause or presumption whereby his faithe and allegiance to the state was any what impayred. And yet found I gret numbers of letters in ij casketts in his owne chamber, which although I have perused, yet have I locked and sealed them up untill further knowledge of your pleasures. My ladie his wife I founde verie sicke and for that cause lefte her gentlewomen aboute her, takinge recognisancce of Mr Wharton & mrs to the Queenes Majesties use for their forthcominge when they shall be called.

"Uponserch of Sir Edward Waldegrave's house I found emonge other things certeyne letters whereof I have sent your Lordships one already and the rest by thes bringers; by which letters divers presumptions of some myndes and doings towards the state and government were imported. I have called hym before me twice to understande what he wolde voluntarely confesse of his disorders which in no wise he wolde do untill laste and then as litell as might be, which I have certified emongst the confessions.

"There be divers apprehended whose confessions for want of tyme I coulde not take; and the circumstance of the rest of my doings I referre to be reported by thes bringers whome I pray your Lordships to credite.

"I have sent your lordships herewith the letters founde at Sir Edward Waldegraves, the examynations of divers of them that are apprehended, the Inventories which I have

..taken and a Kalendar of the names of all the prisoners.

"And forasmuche as I have founde moste submission in Sir Thomas Wharton, and that by his onlie means I have come to the chefaste knowledge of these matters, and not knowenge hym culpable but in this onelie offence; and because also to enduce hym to utter the premisses (wherein he hath shewed hymself verie upright) I promised to stande his frende in that lawfully I might: I do right earnestly pray your good Lordships (if there be no greater matters to be inferred agaynst hym) to shewe hym your lawfull favours at this my poore requeste. And for this apperaunce at any tyme to aunswer the daunger of the matter accordinge to the lawe, I will stande bounde to the quenes majestie for hym in what soever some your lordships shall thinck mete. And soe this tyme I take leave of your good lordships, comyttinge the same to th'almyghtie, from Hedingham Castell, the xixth of Aprill 1561.

Yours good lordships right assured

Oxynforde"(16)

As he had promised in the above letter, the Earl enclosed the following inventory:

Newehall. An Inventorie of all suche Implements of superstition as were founde in the chamber next unto the Lady Whartons bedchamber.

Firste a roode of tymber with Mary and John paynted and parcelll gilded.

Item an altertable of paynted Images with a certenyme prayer "pro salute omnium fidelium defunctorum."

Item a gret plank in steade of an alter, with a superalter upon the same, and ij alterclothes to furnishe.

Item a crosse with Mary and John of copper and gilt: and another crucifix of copper beside the same.

Item a chalice of silver parcell gilt with a patten.

Item a litell candlesticke of silver, and a holywater pay and sprinkle of silver with holywater in the same.

Item ij latten candlesticks with wax candells standing upon th'alter, with divers Laten bcks as Massebcks and oth

Item palmsticks, candells of waxe such as are comonly used at Candlemas, ashes and a displyning rodd.

.. Item a candlestick of latten to set on a paschall light.
Item a standing cupper (with a cover) of silver all gilt
insteade of a pix, and therein, a litell boxe of conse-
create bread, with a canopy cloth of white taffeta garnish-
ed with a lace of gilde and iiij tassells wrought of silver,
perls and gold.

Item a corporeas case with a cloth in the same.

Item a surplisse and ij vestements to saye Masse in, with
all other trinketts to the same belonging.

Item a gret paschall light with ij peces of frankincense
in the same. (there follows a paragraph that is scored):-

All which things besyde the holywater payle and gilt cupp,
rode and pictures, are Johnes the prieste, and belonging to
Pentlowe church, as Mr Wharton saith.

Memorandum the rods and pictures were left in the house by
Queen Mary: and the rest of the premisses except the gilt
cup and holywater payle and ij litell candlesticks were
brought thither by John.

(signed) Thomas Wharton

The names of my ladies gentlewomen

Eliz. Worlington, Barbara Peleys, Margaret Williams.

"Catt. et recogn. coram Joh.em comite Oxon xvij Aprilis
anno iiij^o Reg. Eliz.

Thomas Wharton miles tenetur domine Regine in mille marcis
quod predicte Elizabeth, Barbara et Margareta comparaverint
coram praehonorabili domine regine consilio, dicto comite
sive aliquo alio dicte domine Regine commissario de tempore
in tempore quandocunque requisite fuerint &c. Thomas Wharton."

The Privy Council proceeded to exact confessions from others
in order to find out all they could. Here are two such:

1. "The confession of Emme Barnes keper of Stubbes house
First she confesseth that Stubbes wyffe sent for her
sayeng that she would goo to her husband and so desyred
her to pray for her, saying withall that she knew that
she wuld be sent for.

"Secondly that Sir John Coxe did oft resorte to Stubbes
house and then that she did heare the Sac. Service as
she thought in Latyn.

"Thirdly she never hard Masse their, but she thinketh

that they had Masse in Stubbes house." (18)

2. "The Confession of Annes Pallady

"She confesseth that Sir John Coxe did resorte to her howse to his mother and acknowledge himself to have bene and receyved money of my Lady Wallgrave; as for the Holy water she denieth that she knoweth of this." (19)

A rather curious set of questions which were to be put to Lady Waldegrave have also survived. They are as follows:

"Interrogatories to be answered by Lady Waldegrave
What communications have you had since last Michaelmas of a General Council?

What did you hear of the summoning of the Queen to a General Council?

Of the coming of the Pope's Nuncio into this realm?

Of her Majesty's marriage, and of the succession to the Crown, if God should not send issue, which God forbid?

What succour have you or your husband given to any persons in prison or deprived of their ecclesiastical livings since her Majesty's accession? Where have you heard Masses being said, besides in your own and Sir Thomas Wharton's houses, since they were made illegal?

And where did you first hear of a cross being found in a tree in Wales, and who showed it to you, or the picture of it?"

As a result of these raids upon these Essex families and the subsequent investigations, a number of lay people and priests were indicted at the next Assizes held at Brentwood on June 1st, 1561. The following is the document of the proceedings. Names and words which are underlined are those which were added by Cecil:

ESSEX. Th'effect of all that was done for Q. Majestie at the last commission of oyer before the Erle of Oxford and others at Brentwood the first of June, Anno regni Regine Eliz. iij.

Theis persons were indicted for their severall offences commyted after the last generall assize in Essex and yet have not been putt to answere but remayn some of in prison and some at libertie as doth appere.

1.	Sir Thomas Wharton knight	}	in prison <u>tower</u>
2.	The ladie Anne his wife	}	
3.	Elisabeth Gaywood <u>in the tower</u>	}	
4.	Elisabeth Worlington <u>not in prison</u>	}	at libertie
5.	Margaret Williams <u>not in prison</u>	}	(scored)
6.	Margaret Felton wife to George Felton <u>at liberty</u>	}	
7.	Sir Edward Walgrave	}	
8.	Dame Frauncys his wife	}	in prison <u>tower</u>
9.	Anne Walgrave sister to Mr Walgrave <u>at liberty</u>	}	
10.	Margerie A nonne <u>at liberty</u>	}	at libertie
11.	Thomas Wybord servant <u>at liberty</u> to Mr Walgrave	}	
12.	Elizabeth ladie Holberthorne	}	<u>in the flete</u>
13.	Edmund Clerk servant to Mr Walgrave	}	in prison <u>in Essex</u> <u>in Colchester</u>

Theis persons were indicted for their severall offences commytted before the last generall Assises in Essex, and by the premiss contained in the statute are not to be impeched for their offences because they were not impeched before the last assise.

1.	The L.Hastings of Loughborough	}	in prison <u>offered</u>
2.	Arthur Pole esquire	}	<u>doore before ye</u>
		}	<u>assise</u>
3.	Margaret perepointe	}	at libertie
4.	<u>Alan Chynery</u> clerk who was put to answer after he was indicted and dyd confesse his offences withowt taking advantage of the statute for the tyme of his offences but there is no iudgement given agenste hym, and so he remayneth in prison	}	<u>in Marshalsea</u>
5.	John Coxe clerke	}	in prison

Theis persones were indicted for their severall offences

committed after the last generall assises and there uppon were putte to their answers and dyd confesse their offences and have receyved iudgement according to the statute and doe all remayn in severall prisonnes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. George Felton | <u>in the flete</u> |
| 2. Thomas Large | <u>in the flete</u> |
| 3. <u>Robert Damporte</u> , who after his iudgement dyd declare hym self penitent for his offences openly. | |
| 4. John Shereman, clerke | <u>Colchester</u> |
| 5. William Aldewyn | <u>Mr. Walgr.man,</u>
<u>falconer/in ye</u>
<u>flete.</u> |
| 6. <u>Nicholas Bushe</u> , clerk, who after his iudgement dyd lyke his wife openly declare hym self penitent | <u>in ye K.bench/</u>
<u>this hath a</u>
<u>benefyce.</u> |
| 7. William Jolye, clerk | <u>in the flete.</u> |
| 8. John Ramridge, clerk | <u>in the flete.</u> |
| 9. Robert Downes | <u>in Essex/</u>
<u>Colchester</u> |
| 10. Godfrey Barlowe | <u>in Essex/</u>
<u>Colchester</u> |

(the following in Cecill's writing)

Sir Thomas Stradlyng
Sir John Mordaunt
Mr. Wm. Ryce
Hodgkyns
Jone his wife
John (blank)
Doctor Frear
D. Story
his wife
John Hunt alias Sherman a prest
Langdon a monk (21)

Taking the above named people and priests as they occur we will briefly set down a few details of each person as far as they are known.

Sir Thomas Wharton: This well-known man was born in 1520.

He succeeded as second Baron Wharton and entered the household of the Princess Mary early in 1552. He was with her at Kenninghall when Edward VI died and was one of those who escorted her to Framlingham Castle. Upon her accession she rewarded him for his services to her and was made a Privy Councillor. He received the gift of New Hall, Boreham (the old home of the Queen, the other manors in Essex. Upon the accession of Elizabeth, he was at once excluded from Parliament and the Council, and in April, as shown above, was imprisoned for having Mass said at New Hall. He was set free in July, 1561, but had to pay a fine of 100 marks, and forfeited the manor of New Hall, which was granted to the brother of Lady Wharton, the Earl of Sussex, who had embraced the settlement of religion. Baron Wharton died in 1572 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. His son had been placed under Protestant guardians and grew up outside the Faith to which the family did not return (D.N.B.)

Lady Wharton: The wife of Lord Wharton. She died at New Hall on 7 June, 1561, shortly after the search of the house and lies in Boreham church (Cf. Machyn, p.259 and Harl. MSS 897, f.18). The parish burial register shows her name inscribed immediately after that of a daughter of hers.

Elizabeth Gaywood: This lady was the wife of John Gaywood of Maldon. After her arrest and indictment she was ordered "to remain wth the leutenants wyfe at the Tower" S.p. (Dom. Eliz. xvi 55). She is later reported to be in the Tower (ibid. xvii,19) and her husband was sent for to be questioned (ibid. xviii,7).

Elizabeth Worlington and Margaret Williams: No information of these two has been found except that they were servants of Lady Wharton.

Margaret Felton and George Felton: These were husband and wife, parents of twelve children, six sons and six daughters. They resided at Pentlow Hall, which had been in the Felton family for some while. George Felton is styled Esquire. (Morant, ii, 323) Margaret is thought to have been a daughter of the Carew family of Bury St Edmund's. George Felton was committed to the Fleet for "hyering of Masse", on 22 April, 1561 (Harl. MSS, 360, f.34. Cf also C.R.S. i, index) The Pentlow estate was not transmitted to the eldest son, for what reason is not clear (Morant ibid.) A "M^{res} Jane Felton"

of Stanford Rivers is in a list of Essex Recusants of 1577 (C.R.S. xx, 49). There is a will in the Essex Record Office of John Felton which throws light on the family estates (171 E.R.10.)

Sir Edward Waldgrave: He was born in 1517, the second son of John Waldgrave of Borley. His mother was Lora Rochester of Terlings. He was attached to the household of Princess Mary in 1551, and was imprisoned in the Tower (together with his Uncle, Sir John Rochester and Sir Francis Englefield) for failure to stop Mass being said at Copt Hall, Epping, when the Princess was residing there. On the accession of the Princess to the throne he was made a Privy Councillor and presented to the manor of Navestock in Essex and that of Chewton in Somerset (Cf Morant passim). He was made Commissioner for enquiry into heresy, but somewhat lost favour with the Queen over his hostility to the Spanish marriage. When Elizabeth came to the throne he was at once deprived of all offices. As shown above he was sent to the Tower with his wife and his priest for having Mass said at Borley Hall. He died in the Tower. We read: "Sep.1 Sir Edward Waldegrave... dyed. His Confinement here was thought to be the cause of his death. He was much swoln. The 3rd day of September he was buried in the Quire of the Tower chuch beside the High Altar by Torch-light" (Strype, Annals, i, 270). The same author says "This Knight and his Lady had the Character of very good Alms-folks, in respect, no doubt, of their great liberality to the poor." (Ibid. i, 267). He was succeeded at Borley by his son Nicholas who was frequently in trouble for his Faith.

Lady Frances Waldgrave, Wife of the above. Also Anne Her Sisters: She also was imprisoned in the Tower with her husband and was released the day after his funeral. She and her daughters Mary (who married Sir John Petre) and Magdalen (who married Sir John Southcote), caused the authorities much trouble on account of their fidelity to the Catholic Faith. Two of her daughters were caught trying to go over to the continent to enter a convent as we read in the following: - "Lettre to George Christmas giving thanks for his diligence and travail in staying the twoo daughters of Lady Waldgrave which were passing over into Flanders...." (Acts of P.C. vii, 242, N.S.) These daughters later managed to effect their

escape and became nuns abroad. The Waldgraves are named as Papists for the last time in 1715 when they enrolled their estates as Papists (Q/RRd f.1 to 5 in E.R.O.) After this the family was lost to the Church through the defection of James Waldgrave.

Thomas Wybord: There is no information of this man except that he was a servant of Sir Edward Waldgrave.

Edmond Clerk: No further information.

Elizabeth Lady Hobbblethorne: There was a family of this name at Shenfield, which was recusant. As they were not however of the gentry this lady cannot have belonged to them. It is possible she is to be identified with Lady Huddleston of Sawston and South Weald, a noted recusant.

Lord Hastings of Loughborough: This man had also formerly been closely connected with Queen Mary. When Edward was dying he was ordered by the Duke of Northumberland to raise 4000 horse in Bucks to help secure the succession of Lady Jane Grey. He declared, however, for Mary, having previously shown his attachment to the old religion in a striking way at Calais (D.N.B. lx, 113). He was created a Privy Councillor. On April 23rd, 1561, for hearing Mass he was confined to Barnard Castle. Later in the Tower he took the Oath of Supremacy, was released and retired to his estates in Bucks. He lived in great retirement, building and maintaining a hospital and chapel and ending his days generally in charitable works. He died in 1573. (Cf Cals. of State Papers 1547 seq. passim for references to him). When taking the Oath "he prayed to be excused from bonds of good behaviour" (Dom. Eliz. xviii, 19) which was taken to mean that he wished the liberty of practising his religion. The family held estates in Essex at various times.

Arthur Pole: This was the second son of Bl. Marg. Pole, Countess of Salisbury, the companion of Princess Mary at New Hall, later martyred at Tower Hill. (Cf passim for references to him in C.R.S., vol. i)

Sir Francis Englefield: He was one of the three officers of the Princess Mary's household who had been imprisoned for allowing the Mass at Copt Hall. On the accession of Mary to the throne he became a Privy Councillor and received numerous

gifts for his services such as the manor of Rivenhall where he sometimes resided when in Essex. He fled abroad for religion in 1559. In 1563 he wrote to the Council stating that he had gone abroad because "his conscience was not made of wax". (Strype Annals, i, 409 seq. where there is much about him). He was finally outlawed and his vast estates sequestered. In a list of exiles abroad in 1575, we read: "Sir Frauncis Inglefilde, knighte, abideth comonly at Bruxelles; somme tyme he is at Machlyn. He hath his owlde pencion still, which he had beinge councillor in Q. Maries tyme, of the K. of Spaigne by moneth...He rideth alwayes with 4 good horse." (Douai Diaries, p.299). Dr. Sanders, writing to the Cardinal of Como stated that Englefield and Allen were the two Catholic exiles abroad whom it would be a mistake not to consult on English Catholic affairs. (Knox, Letters and memorials of Card. Allen, p.28). He died in 1596 and is buried in Valladolid.

Margaret Perepointe. A Nun: No further information is available for this lady, but a "m^r perpoynste gentellman was commytted the 16 of december for hyeringe masse at ye Ambassitors, 1567". (Harl. MSS, 360, f, 7).

Thomas Large: It is not possible to say where in the county he came from since there are numerous families of this name. He wrote the following letter to the Council praying to be relieved of penalties for having heard Mass at Lord Wharton's:

"Most lamentably besecheth your honors Thomas large that w(her)eas in the p(ar) lement holden at Westmynster the fyrste yere of the quenys majestys Rayne among other yt was enactyd that no p(er)son in the Realme shuld use any kynd of servyce but suche as by the sayd statute appointyd that not w^t standyng I the sayd thomas large contrary to the sayd statute at boreham in essex in the howse of syr thomas Warton the fyrste daye of ap^ryll last past hard the old servyce comonly callyd the masse, by the reason wereoff I have come in the danger & penaltyes therfor provydyd which as I understand ys eyther the payment off an hundryd markys or els imsonment by the space of syx monythes, the payment of whyche mony were my utter undoyng & the tyme of so long impsonment my weak body moche subject to syknes w^t myn age cosydered wyll bryng great danger to lyff, most

humbly besechyng yo^r honors to be a means w^t godds grace hereafter to lyve as an obedyent suiect and as a dayly bedman to pray for her highnes long prosperitye raynyng over us mekely besechyng yo^r favors to consider my pore & lamentable state, perdonyng my rude wrytyng & shewing yo^r clemency & gudnes towards me, duryng my lyff I shall pray for yo^r long prosperous estate.

yo^r humble orator thomas large" (S.P.Dom.Eliz.xii,13)

The above letter is marked 1560 but is clearly misplaced.

Robert Damporte, Robert Downes, Godfrey Barlow: No information save that they were of Colchester.

The above are those who appear to have been in trouble for the New Hall and Borley Hall Masses. As is seen above, Cecil added to these names those of the following about whom we may add a brief note since they are connected with the county of Essex.

Sir John Mordaunt: This was the second Lord Mordaunt, son of a family which was ardently attached to the old religion. Two of his sisters were nuns; his father had had for confessor the martyr Bl. John Forrest. This son had gone to Princess Mary's side when she raised her standard at Framlingham and had been made one of her Privy Council. He was the first of his family to reside at Thorndon Hall. He too was arrested for hearing Mass though not it seems in connection with the Masses at New Hall and Borley. "S^r John mordaunt was committyd to the Flete the last of May, Anno dni MDLXJ (Dom. Eliz., vol. xviii,5). Upon his release it would seem likely that he continued to have Mass said at Thorndon, for the old priest, Horwood (or Harwood) who had been presented to the living of Ingrave in 1541, upon the accession of Elizabeth, moved into Thorndon Hall and put a succession of curates into the church (CF Art. in Brentw.Mag vol.1, 49 seq.). The second Lord Morduant died in 1575, and was succeeded by his son Louis Lord Mordaunt, the last of his family to hold Thorndon (He sold it to the Petres and went back to the ancestral home of Turvey). This third Lord Mordaunt is cited in an entry in the Archdeacon of Essex's Minute Book (Transc. vol.1, f.35) when the churchwarden, asked "Why the rood loft is not clere plukt downe?" replied that he had spoken of it to Lord Mordaunt who had taken no action.

Hodgkins and his Wife Joan: No information of these is available.

Mr William Ryce (Rice): It has not been found possible to trace this man's family. The following note concerning him may be given: "...using very reverent and humble talk, he refused nevertheless to give presently the oath...with tears in his eyes...and humble demeanour asking time for deliberation." (S.P. Dom. Eliz. xviii, 8)

Dr Frear (Freer or Friar): A well-known doctor of physic. He remained constant in his resistance and is found in a list of Recusants of 1577, being then described as of "All halowes in honey lane" (C.R.S. vol xx, 44). There was a family of this name prominent in Essex at this time.

Coming now to the priests arrested as a result of the New Hall and Borley raids we may note the following of them:

John Sherman (alias Hunt): This priest had been formerly an Augustinian monk of St. Osyth's near Clacton. He took the oath of supremacy on July 9th, 1534, and signed the surrender of the Abbey on July 28th of that year receiving a pension of £6.13.4 (V.C.H., ii, 160). He became Vicar of Bentley, on 23 July, 1541 (Newcourt, ii, 106), but was deprived for marriage before 13. Dec. 1557 (Reg. Bonner f.473). He was later instituted Vicar of Bulmer and remained there until his resignation which had taken effect by 29 July, 1561 (New. ibid.). He had taken the Oath in 1559 (Gee, 107), but had left his parish by 1560 when we find the following: "Bulmer. This is a vycarred and is thought to be voyde for they cannot tell wheare the vyccar is (Archdeaconry of Middlesex Returns, 1560, C.C.C.C.51)"

William Jolly: This priest also was a Canon of St Osyth's (Baskerville's Notes). He became Rector of Pentlow on 20 March 1543, and subscribed to the Oath at Dunmow in 1559 (Gee, 105). He had resigned from Pentlow before 17 July, 1560 (New. ii, 468). He is said to be "Mr Whartons prieste" (S.P.Dom. Eliz., xviii, 3) For further references to him cf C.R.S. i, pp 49,52,55). He later got to Louvain where he matriculated March 29, 1564, called "Anglus presbyter pauper." (Arch. Gén. du Roy. Brussels, Univ de Louvain, No 24 - Quartus Liber Intitulatum f. 403).

Nicholas Bush: This priest too had once been a canon of St.

Osyth's. He took the oath on July 9, 1534, signed the surrender of the Abbey and received a pension of £8 (V.C.H., ii, 168). He became curate at Copford End and subscribed to the Oath at Chelmsford in 1559 (Gee, 103). He succeeded William Jolly (above) as Rector of Pentlow which he held until his resignation some time before 4 Aug, 1571 (New ii, 468). He died as Rector of Brundon before Feb. 27, 1601 (Ibid.) Other information of him is contained in the Archd. Middlesex Returns of 1560, 50b as follows: "Pentlowe. Nicholas Busshe prieste is parson there and he is resydente and keapeth hospitalitie savinge that his farmer doth, not hable to preache." Another Return a year later has this: "Rector de Pentlowe Nicholas Bushe Presbiter non conugatus mediocriter doctus residet non hospitalis ibidem, non predicat, nullum aliud (sc. beneficium)" (Arch. Middl. Return ibid., 64b). There is subsequently much about him in the Essex Quarter Sessions Records. He was not a very reputable character (Cf Q/SR in E.R.O. 23/29, 25/43, 26/50, 36/21, 36/52, 39/113, 40/8, 41/35, 42/3, 43/13, 46/16 and in other places).

John Coxe, alias Devon: No further information of this priest has been found save what is shown in the above documents. He does not seem ever to have been beneficed in Essex: He was probably an ex-monk as they were the only ones with an alias at that date.

Alan Chinnery: Similarly we have not been able to find any information of this priest. He too appears to have been either formerly a monk or from some parish outside the London Diocese.

John Ramridge: This was a well-known priest, formerly the Dean of Lichfield. He does not appear to have held any Essex living but is found, as shown above, saying Mass in Essex houses after the accession of Elizabeth. There is much about him in C.R.S. 1, in Gee, Newcourt and elsewhere.

William Aldewyn: This man, though described in the indictment document as "m^r Valdgr. man falconer", may have been a priest passing under the name also of William Stevens. Lists of prisoners in the various London Prisons show him invariably listed with priests. (C.R.S. i, in several places)

These are the priests specifically named as having said Mass in the Essex houses. Imprisoned with them were some 30 other

priests of whom 14 were connected with Essex; some were well-known figures like Thomas Wood, Rector of High Ongar, formerly a Franciscan who had been nominated to the bishoprick of St. Osaph and who remained in prison for over twenty years. It is hoped on a later occasion to put together some notes on these other Essex clergy who suffered imprisonment in these first years of Elizabeth.

We may end by noting that these priests, secular and religious, the laymen and lay women who sheltered them, were ordinary, simple men and women, not minding political issues but only hungering after the sacraments and ceremonies of which they had been robbed. Cecil was to write in a letter just afterwards: "I take God to record I mean no evil to any of them...." But he had taken away the things that mattered most to them.

CANON B. C. FOLEY.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Thomas Darbyshire, as an exile abroad and a Jesuit, became a famous figure throughout most of the reign. It is hoped later to put together some notes upon him and other dignitaries of the London Diocese who were beneficed in Essex.
- (2) John Standish disappears after this. He may have been one of the three archdeacons who "crossed the seas and now live in obscurity abroad" (Sanders in C.R.S. i, 41.)
- (3) William Chedsey's subsequent history is also uncertain. He was however still in prison in 1562 (Harl. MSS vol. 360, f.34).
- (4) Henry Cole had been much connected with this county. He was admitted to the rectory of Chelmsford on Sept. 11, 1540 (Newc. ii, 129). He was imprisoned and deprived for failing to take the oath in 1559 and remained a prisoner until 1574 when the following letter was sent from the Council "signifying that the Quenes

Majestie, upon humble suit made in behalf of Dr Cole and in consideration of his great yeres, was content that he should be sett at libertie to remaine xx or xxx^{tie} miles about the citie in some honest persons howse...yf the sayd Doctor should be able to give to his Lordship sufficient sureties in good sommes that he wold not intermeddle by teaching or otherwise in matter of Religion against the ecclesiasticall orders of the realme." (Acts of P.C., viii, 4 April, 1574). He is said to have died in or near the Compter in Wood Street in 1579 (New., i, 49)

- (5) Vict. County Hist., ii, 35.
- (6) Ibid.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) David, Annals of Evangelical Nonconformity, 60.
- (9) Cf Strype, Annals, also Documents Illustrative of the Church of England, where these Injunctions are printed in full.
- (10) Returns to Bishop of London, 1560, are in Corpus Christi College Cambs. Library. I am indebted to Miss H. Grieve of the Essex Record Office for letting me see her transcripts of these.
- (11) Cf Birt, The Elizabethan Religious Settlement, p 439. From March 1960 to March 1961. Grindall held no less than 27 ordinations, on one occasion ordaining 107 to priesthood and 84 to diaconate.
- (12) The Eng.Caths in the Reign of Eliz., J.Pollen.
- (13) S.P. 12 Dom. Eliz. vol. xvi, 49.
- (14) Ibid., vol. xvi, 49 (1)
- (15) Ibid., vol. xvi, 49 (2)
- (16) Ibid., vol. xvi, 50 April 19, 1961
- (17) Ibid., vol. xvi, 50 (1)
- (18) Ibid., vol. xvi, 50 (2)
- (19) Ibidem.
- (20) Dom. Eliz. Addenda, vol. xi, 7 (Cal)
- (21) S.P. 12 Dom. Eliz. vol. xvii, 19
- (22) Cited in The Eng.Caths in the Reign of Eliz. Pollen, 71.

The Diocese of London included the Cities of London and Westminster, and the counties of Essex, Middlesex and Herts. About three quarters of the parishes of the diocese were in the county of Essex. Ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the diocese was of two kinds - administrative and judicial. (a) Some of the administrative jurisdiction was in the hands of the Vicar General and a long series of V.G. Books has survived some of the administrative duties of the Archdeacon were recorded and have also survived (b) The ecclesiastical courts were at three levels, the commissary court the consistory court and the archdeacon's court.

The Consistory Court records and the Vicar General's Books, formerly in the vaults of Somerset House, were transferred in 1956 to the Record Office of the County of London in County Hall, Westminster: by courtesy of that Office we publish the following extracts.

1. Licence to bury a Recusant: Vicar General's Book 1590-99 (Stanhope Pars IIa) = DL/C/335, fol. 191.

Licentia concessa Rectori sancti Martini Orgar pro sepultura corporis Katherine Throgmorton, eo quod stetit excommunicata tempore mortis sue.

Edward Stanhope, Dr. of Lawe and chancellor of the Diocese of London. To our welbeloved in Christe Mr. John Heynye clarke parson of the parishe church of St. Martin Orgar in the Citie.

Whereas Katherine Throgmorton lately deceased, while she lived of the parish of St. Martin Orgar aforesaid, hath bene heretofore by us and our authoritie (for not appearinge before us being cited for her recusancie in not coming to church) excommunicated.

For so much as also yt hath bene made knowne unto us by your the said Mr. John Heynyes letter iudicialle exhibited before us and faythe made of your writinge thereof by Richard Putler sonne of her the said Katherine was found by your the said Mr. Heynye all the time of her sicknesse well-disposed, penitent and relyinge wholie uppon Jesus Christe and him onelie.

And for so much as also yt hathe bene desired both by you the said Mr. Heynye in your said letter that shee might bee absolved and thereby receive the rightes dues to a Christian:

Theis are to lette you understand that upon due consideration of your the said Mr. Heynyes letter, wee have absolved her from the excommunication aforesaid and decreed that shee shall be buried in Christian buriall. Theis are therefore to will you the aforesaid Mr Heynyie that you do burie her the said Katherine Throgmorton in Christian buriall and that at the time of her buriall either in your sermon, yf you shall then preache, or before you procede to burie her bodie, that you do publickely signifie unto the congregation then there presente that accordinge as you have written unto us, it pleased god so to worke with her that shee the said Katherine Throgmorton shewed herself in her sicknesse time to bee verie penitente for all her sinnes and acknowledged herself to relie onelie uppon Jesus Christ, whereby wee conceive good hope that god in th'ende did worke with her to forsake all meritte whatsoever either of man or saints, and to rest onelie uppon Christ Jesus, have thought fitte and decreed her to be absolved and buried in Christian buriall.

In witness whereof wee have sette our seale to theis our testimoniall letter. Dated the xvjth day of October in the year of our Lord god one thousand five hundreth nintye and fower.

Only two such licences to bury excommunicated persons appear in the index to this book. The second licence is for Avis Allen of St. Botulph neere Billingsgate, dated June 14, 1597 (fol. 333): she is described as a "sectary"..

11. Consistory Court, Session of September 16, 1606:
Correction Book 1606/7, fol. 7 (London C.R.O. DL/C/305)

Thomam Ruckwood gen. de East Tilbury et Annam eius uxor Presentat that since his coming into the Towne which is abowte foure years and a halfe agoe the man and his wife hath not at any tyme frequented dyvine servis, and that his wief hath not frequented dyvine servis theis eight years last past.
(In the margin): Recusants to be excommunicate.

Mariam uxorem Rogeri Crabb de Eastilburye. Presented that she is a dangerous Recusant drawinge others unto the popishe religion, hath never frequented dyvine servis since her aboade in their towne which hath byn for the space of theis four or five years. (These presentments should be compared with those made in the Court of the Archdeacon of Essex on May 10, 1605)
D. SHANAHAN.

MEMBRANE 9 (DORSO) cont.

Period: April-June 1606.

Convicted: October 3, 1606.

Silvester Dennis	Little Easton, yeoman	£60
Margery Dennis	the same, his wife	£60
----- Grymes	Danbury, wife of William, gent	£60 quit
Hester Wager	the same, spinster	£60
Margaret Twittie	Little Baddow, widow	£60
----- Horne	South Weald, widow	£60
John Wright Senior	the same, gent.	£60
Robert Tyas	Low Leyton	£60
John Dawson	Walthamstow	£60
----- Dawson	the same, his wife	£60
----- Ridgley	Witham, wife of Nicholas, gent	£60
Anastasia Champion	the same, wife of Thomas.	£60 quit
St. John Bray	Hatfield Peverel, gent.	£60 quit
-----	the same his wife	£60

(last three entries scored)

Robert Cranwishe alias Crannishe	Dunmow, gent.	£60
Elizabeth Crannishe	the same, his wife	£60
-----	the same, wife of Rich.	
	Jennings, gent.	£60
Robert Smyth	the same yeoman	£60
Winifred Smyth	the same, his wife	£60
William Hunt	the same,	£60
----- Hunt	the same, his wife	£60
----- Thredder	the same, wife of Roger	£60
Jane Cock	the same, widow	£60
Peter Thorogood	Little Wenden, yeoman	£60 quit
Florence Thorogood	the same, his wife	£60
Katherine Thorogood	the same, widow	£60
William Banes	the same, yeoman	£60
Thomas Crowley	Mallenden, armiger	£60
Margaret Crowley	the same, his wife	£60
Edward Raye	the same, gent	£60
Margaret Mason	the same, wife of George	£60

.

Period: September 3 - October 1, 1606: Convicted: January 8, 1607

Margaret Twitty	Little Baddow, widow	£20
Ellen Twidley	the same, spinster	£20
Bettrice Twidley	the same, spinster	£20
Dorothy Black	the same, wife of Giles, gent.	£20
---- Grymes	Danbury, wife of William, gent.	£20
---- Jennyns	Great Dunmow, wife of Richard, gent.	£20
---- Lennarde	Little Canfield, wife of Peter	£20
Elizabeth Cranwishe	Great Dunmow, widow	£20
Robert Smyth	the same	£20
Winifred Smyth	the same, his wife	£20
Joan Thredder	the same, wife of Roger	£20
Joan Godfrey	the same	£20
William Morgan	Great Maplestead, armiger	£20
Dorothy Morgan	the same, his wife	£20
William Riche	Sible Hemingham (sic!)	£20
---- Riche	the same, his wife	£20
---- Chaplyn	Halstead, wife of Edward	£20
Clare Bendlowes	Finchingfield, wife of William	£20
Andrew Bendlowes	the same	£20
---- Bendlowes	the same, his wife	£20
William Thurgood	the same	£20 quit
---- Thurgood	the same, his wife	£20
Christopher Snellock	the same	£20 quit
---- Rookwood	East Tilbury, wife of ---, gent.	£20
---- Crabbe	the same, wife of Roger	£20
John Wright	Brook Street	£20
Christopher Birde	Stondon	£20
---- Birde	the same, his wife	£20
Thomas Birde	the same, gent	£20
---- Bevis	Great Parndon, wife of John	£20
---- Ridgley	Witham, wife of Nicholas, armiger	£20
Anastasia Campion	the same, wife of Thomas	£20 quit
John Southcote	Little Totham, gent	£20
	

MEMBRANE 10

Period: June-July 1605: July 15-Sept 9, 1606. Convicted: July 15, 1606.

Margaret Mason	Mallenden, spinster, wife of George	£60
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Robert Snelhawke	Little Yeldham, yeoman	£60
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Period: February 1-28, 1606 & July 15 - September 9, 1606

Mary Moore	Leyton, spinster	£60
Laurence Greenwood	the same, gent	£60
Grace Greenwood	the same, his wife	£60
Laurence Povey	the same, gent	£60
Jane Povey	the same, his wife	£60
Thomas Moore	the same, gent	£60
Maria Moore	the same, his wife	£60
Grezacres Moore	the same, gent	£60 quit
Elizabeth Moore	the same, his wife	£60
Anne Moore	the same, spinster	£60
Anne Rookwood	East Tilbury, spinster, wife of Thomas	£60
Mary Crabbe	the same, spinster, wife of Roger	£60
Richard White	Hutton, armiger	£60
Mary White	the same, his wife	£60
George Wharton	the same, yeoman	£60
Peter Eve	North Weald Bassett, yeoman	£60
Elizabeth Sprenger	the same, wife of Robert	£60
Lady Eliz. Percy	Leyton, spinster	£60
Robert Tyas	the same, gent	£60

Period: Sept. 30, 1605 - March 1606 & March - April, 1606

Convicted: Monday in Fifth week of Lent, 1606

Elizabeth Chaplyn	Halstead, spinster, wife of Edward	£140
Mary Bickner	Farnham, widow	£140
Joyce Southcote	Little Totham, spinster, wife of John	£140
Thomas Crawley	Mallenden, gent	£140
Margaret Crawley	the same, wife of Thomas	£140

MEMBRANE 10 DORSO

Edward Raye	Mallenden, gent	£140
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Period: July 1 - 28, 1606 & March - April 1606

Laurence Povey	Leyton	£40
Jane Povey	the same, his wife	£40

Laurence Greenwood	the same, yeoman	£40
Grace Greenwood	the same, his wife	£40
Robert Tyas	the same, yeoman	£40
Thomas Moore	the same, yeoman	£40
Thomas Moore (sic)	the same, gent	£40
Maria Moore	the same, his wife	£40
Grezacres Moore	the same, gent	£40 quit
Elizabeth Moore	the same, his wife	£40
John Dawson	Walthamstow, yeoman	£40
Robert Cannon	the same, yeoman	£40
Thomas Humfrey	Runwell	£40
Mary Humfrey	the same, his wife	£40
John Phithion	Barking, gent	£40
Elizabeth Jennings	Great Dunmow, spinster, wife of Rich. gent.	£40
Jane Jennings	the same spinster	£40
Robert Chamberlayne	the same, yeoman	£40
Joan Godfrey	the same, spinster	£40
Alice Dennis	the same, widow	£40
Elizabeth Dennis	the same, spinster, wife of John	£40
Thomas Dennis	the same, yeoman, son of William	£40
Robert Cranwise	the same, surgeon	£40
Grizilla Thorne	the same, spinster, wife of Thomas, clergyman	£40
William Hunt	the same, yeoman	£40
Juliana Hunt	the same, his wife	£40
Elizabeth Cranwise	the same, widow	£40
Elizabeth Cranwise	the same, spinster	£40
Robert Smith	the same, weaver	£40
Winifred Smith	the same, his wife	£40

.

MEMBRANE 11

William Rawlins	the same	£40
Alice Smart	the same, widow	£40
Joan Thredder	the same, spinster, wife of Roger	£40
Alice Cocke	the same, widow	£40
Edward White	Rawreth, gent	£40
Anne White	the same, his wife	£40
William Underwood	the same, yeoman	£40
Elizabeth Cooke	the same, spinster	£40
Anne Wotham	the same, spinster	£40
Eleanor Birde	Stondon Massey, spinster, wife of William	£40

Christopher Birde	the same, gent	£40
Katherine Birde	the same, his wife	£40
Maria Birde	the same, spinster	£40
William Wiseman	Wimbishe, knight	£40 quit
Lady Jane Wiseman	the same, his wife	£40
William Bannes	the same, yeoman	£40
Jane Wiseman	the same, widow	£40
Silvester Dennis	Little Easton, yeoman	£40
Margery Dennis	the same, his wife	£40
Lady Margaret Fitch	Ramsden Bellowes, spinster, wife of Sir Francis Fitch, knight	£40 quit
Anne Rockwood	East Tilbury, wife of Thomas, yeoman	£40 quit
Mary Crabbe	the same, spinster, wife of Roger	£40
Clare Benlowes	Finchingfield, spinster, wife of William Benlowes, armiger	£40 quit
William Thurgood	the same, gent	£40 quit
Christopher Snelhawke	the same, yeoman	£40
Elizabeth Wrighte	Brundon, widow	£40
Edward Wrighte	the same, gent	£40
Ralph Josselin	Little Hallingbury, yeoman	£40
Alice Thredgold	the same, spinster, wife of John	£40

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Period: July 2/3, 1607 - Sept 25, 1607: Convicted: July 2/3 1607

William Thoroughgood	Finchingfield	£120 quit
Anne Rookwood	East Tilbury, wife of Thomas, gent	£120
Maria Crabbe	the same, wife of Roger	£120
William Greene	Little Sampford, armiger	£120
and ----	his wife	£120 quit
(discharge in Recusant Roll IV under Lond. Middx)		
Frances Mosee	Great Sampford, widow	£120
---- Clarence	Little Sampford, wife of Oliver	£120
Clare Bendlowse	Finchingfield, wife of William	£120
---- Horne	South Weald, widow	£120

.

MEMBRANE 11 DORSO

John Fryffin	Barking	£120
---- Jenninge	Great Dunmow, wife of Richard	£120
---- Cranishe	the same, widow	£120
Robert Smithe	the same	£120

and ----	his wife	£120
---- Thredder	wife of ---- Thredder	£120
---- Slinge	Great Baddow, wife of Richard gent	£120

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Period: Six months & three months

Henry Atslowe	---- gent	£180 quit
---- Atslowe	his wife	£180
John Cranche, senior	Great Hallingbury	£180
and ----	his wife	£180
Richard Eve	Latchingdon	£180
---- Croley	Malynden, gent	£180

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Period: Two months & three months

Thomas White	Donneham	£100
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Period: Twelve months and three months

Annastasey Campion	Witham, wife of Thomas	£300
---- Ridgeley	----, wife of ---- Ridgeley	£300
Anna Wrighte	White Notley, wife of Henry	£300
Henry Whitebred	the same	£300 quit
Elena Whitebred	the same, his wife	£300
John Turcooth	Bulmer, gent	£300
Magdalene Turcooth	the same, his daughter	£300

.

Period: Seven months and three months

---- White	White Notley, gent	£200
---- White	the same, his wife	£200

.

Period: June 15-July 15, 1606 & July 20, - Sept. 14, 1607.

Convicted: July 20, 1607

Elizabeth Ashbye	Writtle, spinster	£60
Thomas Adams	Rawreth, yeoman	£60
Elizabeth Barker	the same, spinster	£60
William Greene	Little Sampford, armiger	£60 quit
Thomas Greene	the same, gent	£60
Nicholas Waldgrave	Borley, armiger	£60

.

Period: June 12 - July 14, 1607 & July 4 - Sept 26, 1608.

Convicted: July 4, 1608.

Dorothy Blague	Little Baddow, wife of Giles	£80
Beatrice Twitty	the same, spinster	£80
Alice Grimes	Little Banbury (sic) wife of William, gent	£80
Margery Bendisshe	Bumsted	£80

.....
Period: May 1 - 28 1609. & February 27. - April 27, 1610.

Convicted: Feb. 27, 1610.

Mary Bicknor	Farnham, spinster	£60
Thomas Litle	the same, yeoman	£60 quit
William Banckes	Hadstock, yeoman	£60
Katherine Thurgood	Great Wenden, widow	£60
William Banes	the same, yeoman	£60
Martha Banes	the same, spinster	£60
Winifred Snelhawke	the same, spinster	£60
Joyce Southcoate	Little Totham, wife of John	£60
Susan Forest	Weileigh, wife of John	£60
Martha Searle	Saffron Walden, wife of John	£60
Maria Renken	the same, wife of Thomas	£60
Anna Thurgood	Great Wenden, wife of William	£60
William Thurgood	the same, yeoman	£60 quit
Florence Thurgood	the same, wife of Peter	£60

.....
Period: July 1 1610 - June 30, 1611 & March 2 - April 27, 1612.

Convicted: March 2, 1612.

Susan Forest	Weileigh, wife of John	£280
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.....
(to be continued)

MOTHER NICHOLAS, O.S.U.
MOTHER JOSEPH MARY, O.S.U.
(Upton)

The fragments of red-brick glowing redly in the walls of the parish church of All Saints, Writtle, are tangible and visible evidence that Britain was once an outpost of the Roman Empire; but the very fabric of the church itself should remind us that the "Ecclesia Anglicana" was but a province of the "Ecclesia universalis" whose head was (and is) in Rome. For the church was built by the Brethren of the Hospital of the Holy Ghost near St. Peter's in Rome, and from about 1218 until 1360 it was in their charge.

This little known connection with Rome came about as follows. The Saxons, like the other newly-converted barbarian nations of Europe, had a great devotion to the See of St. Peter in Rome: the "Rome scot" or "Rome fee", started by the Saxon kings as a tribute to the Holy See is still with us in the form of "Peter Pence". But also the Tomb of St. Peter became a place of Pilgrimage for these nations, and round it were grouped the Hospices of the various nations, in which their pilgrims could be housed: the only one still on its original site is the German house, built by Charlemagne. The Saxon quarter has however at least left a relic in the name of the street "Borgo S. Spirito in Saxia", just behind the Hospital of the Holy Ghost. In 1204 Pope Innocent III granted this hospital to the English nation on condition that they supported it; so King John granted the revenue of Writtle church to the Brethren of the Hospice, and for over 100 years it remained in their possession. During that time it became the headquarters of the Pope's agents who were collecting Peter Pence in England.

About 1362 the English found a new site about a mile down the Tiber (the present English College in the Via Monserrato), and in 1391 Richard II seized Writtle as an alien priory. Later Writtle's revenues went to the upkeep of New College, Oxford, and in 1576 the English Hospice in Rome, when the flow of pilgrims had dried up, was turned into a residence for English students studying theology.(1)

There was however to be another link between Writtle and Rome: for the wife of Richard White of Hutton, was Catherine daughter of Richard Weston, of Skreens Park, Roxwell, and when she died, early in the 17th century, while on a visit to

Rome, she was buried in the Chapel of the English College: to this day you can read the inscription put up by her husband who describes himself as "of the East Saxons": if she had died at home, she would have been buried in the family vault in Writtle church. (2)

I. The Weston Monument

This is against the north wall of the chancel: it is an altar-tomb of Furbeck marble. The front has three moulded and cusped lozenge panels each enclosing a brass shield of arms. The tomb is without inscription, but the arms are unmistakably those of Richard Weston of Skreens, Roxwell (the next parish to Writtle). He was M.P. for Maldon in 1555, Solicitor General in 1557, Queen's serjeant in February 1559 and Justice of Common Pleas in October 1559. His first wife was Wiburga, daughter of Anthony Catesby of Whiston, co. Northampton, who was a widow with seven children when he married her: by her he had his son and heir, Jerome, afterwards Sir Jerome Weston, knight, and a daughter, Amphillis, who married in 1571 Sir Benjamin Tichborne (3). By his second wife, Margaret Burnaby, the judge had a son, Nicholas, and two daughters: by his third wife, Elizabeth, who survived him he does not appear to have had any children. He died in 1572: in his Will he directed: "My bodye to be buried and entered (yf it convenientlye maye) in the Parisshe Church of Writtle in the countye of Essex, in the same place where my late and wellbeloved wife Margaret Westone was interred, where I would have a plaine tomb of marble made without curiositie with both our armes joyned together and sett upon the same, my funerall to be semelie and conveniente without pompe." When he died in 1572 he was possessed of Skreens Park, the manors of Nettleswell near Harlow, Long Barnes in Bishops Cleeve and West Tilbury: also lands at Dunmow, Chaldewell, Grays Thurrook, Wickford and Runwell.

His eldest son, Sir Jerome Weston, inherited Skreens Park: his eldest son, Richard, married Elizabeth, sister of Sir Edward Pinchon, and one of his daughters, Dorothy, married Sir Edward. Richard Weston (1577-1635) was a lawyer: he was M.P. for Maldon in 1601, and succeeded to his father's estates in 1603, when he was knighted. He was employed by James I as ambassador to Bohemia and subsequently to Brussels: later he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord Treasurer of

England. In 1634 he was created 1st Earl of Portland: he died March 13, 1635 a Roman Catholic priest being called in to administer the last Rites, for although he had not been living as a Catholic, all his sympathies were with the old religion, and his family were all Catholics: as we saw, his daughter was buried in the English College in Rome. He himself was buried in Winchester Cathedral. He was succeeded in the titles by his eldest, surviving son, Jerome, who appears as a recusant in Exchequer records. (4)

II. The Pinchon Monument

Immediately above the Weston Monument and appearing at first sight almost to form part of it is the monument to Sir Edward Pinchon and to his wife Dorothy Weston. It is remarkable both on account of the peculiarity of the design and excellence of the workmanship; it is said to be the work of Nicholas Stone, a famous sculptor of his day, and an identical monument on a larger scale may be seen in Southwark Cathedral (C. of E.) The inscription may be translated as follows:-

In Memory of the Dead
Edward Pinchon and Dorothy Weston
Formerly one in the flesh, now one dust
Await Christ in this tomb.
They lived with rare faith to God-ward
In undisturbed harmony with one another
And in equal charity to all men
If thou dost doubt the words of their
 grief-stricken son
Ask those among whom they lived
Meanwhile beware of speaking ill of them
For even though dead they have sharp ears.

The Pinchons were an old Writtle family: they were living there in 1465, and the name frequently appears in records of the parish to within the last 100 years. They were possessed of the manor of Sturgeons about a mile north-west of Writtle church. The Edward Pinchon who is commemorated in the monument was born in 1582, second son of his father, who died when he was about 10 years of age: shortly afterwards he lost his elder brother Peter and became head of the family. In 1598 he was a student of the Inner Temple, and two years later, when he was but eighteen years of age, he married a daughter

of the neighbouring family of Weston (see above): he was knighted in 1603 at the coronation of James I. He had one son, John, and three daughters, Mary, Ann and Elizabeth. He died in 1627 and was buried on the north side of the chancel. His son, John, was educated at New College, Oxford, and succeeded to the estates on the death of his father: he died in 1654, was buried in Writtle church and is commemorated by the following inscription on a floor-slab:-

(Shield of arms)

Here lyeth the body of JOHN
PYNCHON of Writtle Esqr., son of
Sir Edward Pynchon of Writtle Knt.
who departed this life the 30 day
of July 1654
and also the body of EDWARD
PYNCHON Gent., son of the said
John Pynchon Esqr. who departed
this life the 12th day of February
1672
and also the body of Ann
wife of the said John
(died 1675)

The Pinchon family do not appear prominently as recusants (further research may correct this statement), but they were closely connected with Catholic families. John Pinchon, who died in 1654, left six daughters and coheiresses. One of them, Anne, married John Woolfe of Haseley Court, Co. Oxon: another, Bridget, was second wife of William, 4th Lord Petre, who died a confessor of the Faith in the Tower of London, January 5, 1684: and another, Elizabeth, married John Petre of Fithlers, and had a son, Benjamin Petre (1672-1758) who was Bishop of Prusa and Vicar Apostolic of the London District from 1734 until his death. (5)

III. Petre floor-slabs

In the south chapel is a memorial to

John Petre, Senr. of Fithlers, Esqr.

John Petre was the 4th son of William, eldest son and heir of John the 1st Lord Petre, who succeeded him in the barony, and Catherine, daughter of Edward, Earl of Worcester, John

Petre inherited the manor of Fithlers, and had three wives: first, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Pordage of Rodmersham in Kent, by whom he had John, his eldest son and heir. She died August 15, 1658 in the 39th year of her age, and was interred in the south aisle of the chancel, where her slab now lies. His second wife was Elizabeth, second daughter of John Pinchon, of Writtle, who died November 3, 1678, aged 41.

In the south aisle of the chancel

Shield of Arms

ELIZABETH PETRE, daughter of Thomas Pordage
of Rodmersham in Kent, Esqr, wife of John Petre
Died 15 August 1658, aged 39

In the Nave, east to west

Shield of Arms

Here lyeth the Body
of MARY PETRE wife of
JOSEPH PETRE of Fithlers Esqr
and was the youngest daughter of
THOMAS HICKIN
Gentleman of London. She
Dyed the 24th of Feb. 1725
in the 31st year of her Age
Requiescat in Pace
Here also lyeth the Body of JOHN PETRE
her only son who was born
the 20th of Feby and Dyed the 20th of
June 1726

Here lyeth interred DOROTHY PETRE
Wife of JOSEPH PETRE Esqr
of Fithlers in Writtle. Widdow
of JOHN HURST Gent
of Haverhill in Essex
and daughter of
GEORGE THROCKMORTON Esq. of
Chestfield in Hertfordshire. She
dyed the 25 day of Aprill 1714 in
the 42 year of her age
REQUIESCAT IN PACE

....

Shield of Arms
Here lyeth the Body of
JOHN PETRE Esqr
of Fithlers, Son of
JOSEPH PETRE Esqr
who departed this life
September the 2nd 1721
in the 31st year of his age
Requiescat in pace.

In the south aisle from west to east

Shield of Arms
Here lyeth the Body of
JOSEPH PETRE Esqr
of Fithlers who departed
this life January the 31st
1721 in the 57th year of his age
Requiescat in pace.

Here lyeth the Body of
JOSEPH PETRE Esq. of Fithlers
Youngest son of
JOSEPH PETRE Esq.
He departed this life
Oct. the 11th 1729
Aged ... years
Requiescat in pace.

The following inscription seems to refer to Papists, for the Greenwoods of Brise Norton, Co. Oxon, were certainly such: in fact Grace More, daughter of Thomas More II of Low Leyton was married to a Thomas Greenwood, (6) and the Bridget mentioned in the inscription may be her daughter. The name Whitbread also occurs frequently in lists of recusants, and a Thomas Whitbread SJ was Jesuit Provincial at the time of the Oates Plot and was executed.

Shield of Arms
To the memory of Mr WILLIAM WHITEBRED
here inhumed October 24th 1661
aetatis suae 65 years
Suscitatur cum gloria
Stay passenger and now th'hast read his name

Know that his worth had more than common fame
 The noble actions that adorne the Just
 Sprung in this life and flourish in his dust
 To tell survivors that he cannot be
 Lost in oblivion who liv'd honestly
 His Morals were exemplar and when fate
 Clipt him it left his Friends unfortunate
 So dy'd he and thus much beinge knowne tis best
 To part and leave him in his hopefull rest

Here also lieth interred BRIDGET
 wife of Mr William Whitebred
 Daughter of Thomas Greenwood
 of Brisnorton in ye County of
 (Oxford Esquir)

At the foot of the steps leading to the pulpit is a brass
 to Edward Bell:

Here lyeth the bodeye of Edwarde Bell, gentleman
 who deceased the xxiii daye of January 1576
 being then lxxiii yeres of age. By Margaret hys
 onelye wyffe he had three sonnes, William, Edwarde
 and James and a daughter named Anne.

He was Coroner of Writtle and Steward of the Petre family:
 John Paine succeeded him as steward. His son Edward was in
 trouble for defending John Paine from the charge of treason(7)

It may be that the Elliott monument and the Skrimsher floor-
 slab also refer to Papists: there were Nuns of these names at
 the Benedictine Convent in Pontoise. (8)

SISTER MARY CATHERINE, O.S.U.
 (Brentwood)

NOTES

- (1) Canon Foley of the Essex Recusant Society is an alumnus
 of the English College in Rome: Mgr. Shanahan lived at
 the German College.
- (2) The White family of Hutton were recusants. Rev. Thomas
 White, brother of Richard, was at that time Clergy Agent
 in Rome: he was one of the most distinguished clergymen
 of his age.
- (3) The Catesby & Tichborne families were prominent recusants
- (4) D.N.B. (5) D.N.B. (6) Essex Recusant 1(1959): 65.
- (7) Essex Recusant 1(1959): 94. (8) CRS 17(1915): 283-6.

THE CONVERSION OF THE SIDNEY FAMILY OF WITHAM, ESSEX.(1)

The conversion of Marlow Sidney and his wife is remarkable for two reasons. The first because it was at a time when the hopes and fortunes of catholics were at their lowest ebb and also because it provides us with a rare glimpse of life at the latter part of the 18th century as lived and seen through the eyes of a catholic. The details are taken from a publication of notes made by a grand-daughter of conversations with her grandparents during their lifetime.

Marlow Sidney was born in Witham about the middle of the 18th century and at the age of 16 he was sent to Cambridge University. It was there that his decision to become a catholic was made. He married in his twentieth year and it was a request from his wife that they both attend Communion at their local parish church that was instrumental in bringing about his conversion. In preparation for this event he read the 6th Chapter of St. John and from then on he could not accept the interpretation as defined by the Church of England. Within a short time he made contact with Mr. Barnes Chaplain to Lord Stourton who lent him a book setting out the position of the Catholic Church. This was sufficient to decide young Marlow Sidney and the work of conversion was almost accomplished. Leaving Oxford he returned to Witham. The question of instruction and reception into the church raised many problems for there was neither chapel nor priest accessible. It was to London that he turned in the hope that at the residences of foreign ambassadors he might obtain information about the whereabouts of a priest. His wife who by this time had accepted her husband's convictions also helped in the search. On a previous visit to London she had visited a french milliner in Soho and thinking she could be a possible source of information she determined to visit once again. On arriving at the house of the milliner she made several purchases and then asked for the name and address of a catholic priest. The poor woman was terrified at this suspecting some trap or hostile intention and it was only after a considerable amount of persuasion was she convinced that the request was of a sincere nature and the following is what actually transpired. "Oh! pray do not speak so loud" continued Madame Amand, the milliner, "this country is one very bad country for La Religion Catholique, shocking

indeed, but if you will please follow me this way" said she, conducting me to a back parlour, then, after glancing up and down the stairs to see that no one was within hearing, and carefully closing the door, she began to inform me, where she thought I should find an English Priest. I wrote down the address and took leave of her". Meanwhile her husband had obtained similar information and the particulars of the same priest Mr. Horne.

On the following day Marlow Sidney called upon Mr. Horne... "We were received into the Church, and read our abjuration in a room where he lived - chapel there was none. He spoke also to us about Dr. Challoner, and told us many things about the difficulties Catholics labour under, which we had previously very little knowledge of. We were soon after presented to Bishop Challoner by Fr. Horne. He received us with kind encouraging words, and a day was appointed for us to complete all our Catholic duties".

The following is an account of their first attendance at Mass and a striking and graphic picture of the times in which they lived is given:- As told by the wife (2)

"We started from our lodgings at five in the morning to be present for the first time at a Catholic religious service, or at prayers, as it was generally called, for the word Mass was scarcely ever used in conversation. We arrived at a Public House in some back street near the house in which Mr. Horne resided. I felt rather frightened, seeing some very rough-looking poor people as we passed through the entrance, though all were very quiet. These people, I was told, were Irish workmen, who, with a few women, were assembled on that Sunday morning to hear prayers when they could be admitted. We hurried past them, but I could not help clinging to Marlow, having a sort of undefined fear of what was going to happen, for I had no inclination to laugh then. We mounted higher and higher, escorted by a young man whom Marlow had seen at the Priest's house. When we arrived at the top the door of a garret was unlocked, we saw at the farthest end what seemed a high table or long chest of drawers with the back turned towards us. ..In a few minutes the door opened, and the Venerable Dr. Challoner accompanied by Mr Horne and another priest, entered the garret, the door of which was secured inside by

the assistant, who then proceeded to unlock some drawers behind what I found was to be used as an altar, and take out the vestments. Water was brought to the Bishop and from his hands we received our conditional baptism, which had been fully explained to us. We then, one after the other entered a sort of closet with the door open, and kneeling received absolution having previously made our confession to Mr. Horne.... After returning to our seats the Bishop put on a vestment and mitre ...We then knelt before him and he administered to us the sacrament of Confirmation". This was followed by the administration of the sacrament of marriage. "All this was done in about half an hour and I thought to myself, well we have now received four sacraments this morning and I knew the fifth and most solemn was to come. Soon afterwards we heard the door key turn, and several rough footsteps enter the garret, then some gentle taps, and words were exchanged between a powerful-looking Irish man who kept his post close to it and those outside which were pass words of admission. The key was again turned each time any one entered, and just before the Bishop vested himself to say Mass, bolts were drawn also, and no one could pass into the garret. We received the Holy Communion when notice was given to us, both the priests holding before us a linen cloth."

During the remainder of our stay in London we heard Mass every Sunday, either in the same garret or at one of the ambassador's chapels. Mass was rarely said on week days for a congregation. We extended our period of absence longer than we had proposed and became also acquainted with a few Catholics

The family then returned to Witham. Soon afterwards Lord Stourton took up residence in the area and Mr Barnes stayed with him and they met frequently a catholic society at this house.

For many years they were forced to observe great caution and privacy in the performance of all catholic duties. The prejudices of the people were set so strongly against them that even the Government could do little to ameliorate the condition of catholics. "We noticed how, year by year, a more tolerable spirit sprang up and on our removal to London many years later when our family had greatly increased we found a much greater facility in performing our religious duties than at the time of our conversion."

It is worthy of note how this family were able to play a not inconsiderable part in establishing nuns from Cambrai in West Ham. Not long after they had settled in London their second son William, whilst on business at London Docks, saw standing on one of the landing stages some women who appeared by their dress to be nuns - the first he had ever seen. With them was an old gentleman with white locks dressed in a costume similar to that of emigrant priests he had met with. They seemed lost and bewildered and showed great signs of fatigue and exhaustion; no one offered them any assistance. On enquiry William Sidney found that they had not long landed from a fishing smack sailing from the coast of Holland; they had passed two days and three nights on a rough sea and undergone great privations during their voyage and not one of them could speak a word of English. They had come from Cambrai, being the remnant of a community of Augustinian nuns attached to the Hospital of St. John in that town. They had only been too glad to escape with their lives from France and Belgium. They had no friends, no lodgings and no one to turn to in the hope of receiving help. Soon a mob gathered round them laughing and jeering at their appearance. Quickly he fetched two hackney coaches and stowed them all aboard with their packages and made straight for his home.. As the party were completely exhausted it was decided that they would have to stay with the Sidneys until such time as other arrangements could be made. Rooms were found for the priest and Mother Superior and for the rest mattresses were laid on the drawing room floor. Pillows and blankets were borrowed from neighbours chiefly from a Jewish family that resided next to the Sidneys.

For more than a fortnight they stayed with the family and meanwhile search had been made for suitable premises and a small house was found for them. They were hoping to support themselves if work could be found for them. This was found possible by their ability to master tambour embroidery for which there was a great demand at that time. Eventually it was possible for them to take a large house in West Ham and there they remained for eight years. In 1802 it was made known to them that Napoleon was desirous of restoring in France some of the Institutions of Charity and consequently they resolved to return to France.

Marlow Sidney stood to lose a great deal by his conversion,

his uncle in Northumberland from whom he expected to inherit an estate would most certainly have cut him off if it had been made known to him that his nephew had turned to the catholic faith. He was also under considerable pressure at Cambridge to change his views and after his last term refused honours that he had well earned, to the surprise of his Cambridge friends, fearing they might in some way interfere with the faith he was to adopt. He and his wife both lived to an advanced age and both saw their great grand children, all their descendants being Catholics. (3)

A. M. CANNON.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Cf A Hundred Years Ago, Mrs. Barnewell, Burns and Oates, no date.
- (2) Cited in Burton, The Life and Times of Bishop Challoner, I, 138 seq. (1909), where it is stated that this is the only account of a secret Mass in London in the eighteenth century.
- (3) Mr. and Mrs. Marlow Sidney subsequently inherited and resided at Cowper Hall, Northumberland. For their subsequent story cf Gillow, v, 505 and iii, 404. Mr. Sidney died in 1839 and Mrs. Sidney in 1844.

APPENDIX

(contributed by Rev. Francis Wilson of Witham)

The following entries appear in the Registers of the Witham Parish relating to this family:-

BAPTISMS

Testor me Carolum Thompson Baptismi Sacramentum sequentibus contulisse:

- (1) Marlow Joanni Francisco Sidney die Decembris septimo anni 1774, (Patrino Rev. Domino Joanne Barnes, Matrina Dom. Maria Sidney), Marlow Mariaeque filio.
- (2) Item Gulielmo Henrico Marlow Sidney, die Aprilis 17a anni 1776, Marlow Mariaeque Sidney filio. Patrino Dom Domino Stourton Angliae Pares, Matrina Maria Stourton.
- (3) Item Maria Francisca Laurenson die 12a Novemb 1777, Jacobi Marthaeque Laurenson filia. Patrino Dom Domino Stourton Angliae Pares, Matrina Dom. Maria Sidney.
- (4) Item Eliz. Maria Marlow Sidney, die 27a Maii 1778, Marlow Mariaeque Sidney filia. Patrino Dom Car. Stourton, Matrina Dom. Eliz. Langdale.
- (5) Item Sophronia (?) Maria Sidney, Marlow Mariaeque filia, die Octobris 11a 1780. Patrino Dom. Dom. Stourton Angliae Pares, Matrina Dom. A. Clifford. Dead.
- (6) Item Constantia Maria Marlow Sidney, Marlow Mariaeque filia, die 22a Aprilis 1782. Patrino Domino Dom. Stourton, Matrina Dom. Dom. Langdale.
- (7) Die 12a Maii baptizata est Anastasia Marlow Sidney, filia Marlow et Mariae Sidney. Patrini Geor. Mannock et Domina Anastasia Mannock.

P. Jenkins.

(Prob 1783, from records of Sidney family)- These words underlined have been inserted by a later hand.

- (8) 1785 anno Salutis ego infrascriptus baptizavi die 8 Februarii Margaretam Mat (?) Marlow Sidney, filiam Marlow et Mariae Sidney, natam. die ejusdem mensis. Sponsores fuere Franciscus Talbot loco Dom. Mathew & Margarita Talbot.

John Paterson.

CONFIRMATIONS

A Rev.Dom.Jac.Talbot Vicario Apostol.confirmati sunt:
 Anna Maria Sidney.. Anno Dom. 1777, die Julii 27.
 Patrino Thompson.

ONE GENERATION OF PETRE OF BELHOUSE 1693 - 1712

Belhouse is near Kelvedon, in the parish of Stanford Rivers in the county of Essex. The Petre house itself has disappeared with the exception of a few tombstones. It was a constant resort, perhaps a residence, of the Jesuit fathers: the christenings from Anne (1696) to Mary (1708) are noted by Brother Foley in Records SJ.

William Petre married his second wife, Penelope Wolfe in 1692 and by her had 11 children, of whom 6 were nuns, one a priest and another died while studying for the priesthood.

1. William born 1693. Went to Jesuit School at St. Omers: then in 1712 to the English College in Rome. He left in 1715 and in 1721 he married Lady Mary Tudor Radcliffe (1697-1756), the sister of James 3rd Earl of Derwentwater (who was executed). They had no surviving issue and both were buried at Stanford Rivers Church in the chancel.
2. Bridget, born 1694. Entered Canonesses of Holy Sepulchre at Liege, clothed there 1710 as M. Bridget, with her portion £500. She died in 1739.
3. Anne, born 1696 at Belhouse. Entered the Franciscan Convent at Bruges, clothed in 1717 as M. Joseph. She died in 1734.
4. John, born 1697, obiit infans.
5. Penelope, born 1698. Was a scholar at the Convent of the Holy Sepulchre in Liege from 1710, until she was clothed in 1714 as M. Stanislaus. She had £400 as her portion. She had an infirmity and died in 1717.
6. Robert, born 1700. Became a Jesuit. died 1766.
7. Winifred, born 1703. "Miss Winny" was clothed at the Convent of the Holy Sepulchre in Liege in 1727 as M. Clare. her portion was £500. She died in 1735.
8. Edward, born 1705. Went to the English College in Douai in 1716. He married Sarah Keepe, by whom he had a son John, who married Frances Manby; their only child Catherine was married first to a Wright of Kelvedon

Hatch and then to a Blount of Mapledurham.

9. M. Ann, born 1707. She was clothed in the Benedictine Convent at Brussels (later East Bergholt, now Haslemere) in 1726 as M. Angela. She died in 1762.
10. Mary, born 1708. Clothed with the Sepulchrines of Liege in 1725 as M. Agnes, and died 1741.
11. Thomas Francis, born 1712; went to Douai 1725. Died in 1733, in 2nd Year Philosophy; he died piously of small-pox, "qui brevi ut dicitur intendebat fieri alumnus".

SISTER FRANCIS AGNES, O.S.F.
(Goodings, Berks.)

AUTHORITIES:

Foley. Records SJ. voll II & IV.
CRS, VII, XIV, XVII, XXIV, XXVIII.

NOTE:

"Liège" now represented by New Hall, Essex.

"Bruges" now Franciscan Convent, Goodings, Berks.

"Brussels" now Benedictine Convent, Haslemere, Surrey.

THE NUMBER OF ESSEX PAPISTS IN 1780

Perhaps the chief effect of the Gordon Riots upon Papists in Essex was that yet once more they were counted by the Anglican parochial clergy and that reports were made to the Bishop of London so that he could join the other bishops in laying the account before the House of Lords.

The 'mainstay of the Faith in Essex', the 9th Lord Petre had had a part to play. Sometime before the riots he is reported to have tried unsuccessfully to prevail upon Lord George Gordon to withdraw from the presidency of the Protestant Association. During the riots his paternal grandmother, Lady Stourton, provided the coach which took Bishop Challoner from 25 Gloucester Street, Queen's Square to the safety of the Mawhoods' house at Finchley on Saturday June 3rd. Then on the night of Tuesday 6th June, Lord Petre's town house in Park Lane was gutted and it was reported that a mob of 3,000 had set out to destroy his Essex home, Thorndon Hall (Burton's Life and Times of Bishop Challoner).

On Tuesday 20th June the Mawhood Diary (C.R.S. vol 50) says, "Called and See Lord Petre, asked him if he thought Bishop Chaloner could remove from my house (where he has been 17 days) with safety. He said all was now quiet and he believed would be so, that our Act of Parliament would not be repealed, and that next sessions more would be granted to us ... dined at Finchley, after tea the good Bishop came with Mrs. Md and me in our Coach, we set him down at his own house Glosester St."

Lord Petre was right about the Act of Parliament, but apparently over-sanguine in thinking that 'next sessions more would be granted to us', for that very day the Commons sitting in committee to consider the Protestant Petition rejected it and passed five resolutions which reflected its mood. The first resolved "that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Effect and Operation of the Act passed in the 18th Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act for relieving His Majesty's Subjects professing the Popish Religion from certain Penalties and Disabilities, imposed on them by an Act made in the 11th and 12th Years of the Reign of King William the Third, intituled, An Act for the further preventing

the Growth of Popery, have been misrepresented and misunderstood." The second resolved, "That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Act, passed in the 18th Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, does not repeal or alter, or in any Manner invalidate or render ineffectual, the several Statutes made to prohibit the Exercise of the Popish Religion, previous to the Statute of the 11th and 12th Years of King William the 3rd."

The fourth of these resolutions foreshadowed a Bill introduced a week later. It resolved, "That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that this House does, and ever will watch over the Interests of the Protestant Religion with the most unremitting Attention; and that all Attempts to seduce the Youth of this Kingdom from the Established Church to popery are highly criminal according to the Laws in Force, and are a proper Subject for further Regulation." On June 27th Sir George Savile, who had himself introduced the Catholic Relief Act of 1778, introduced a Bill "to secure the Protestant Religion in Great Britain from any Encroachments of Popery, by more effectually restraining Papists, or Persons professing the Popish Religion, from teaching or taking upon themselves the Education or Government of the Children of Protestants."

The Bill passed the Commons which fixed the penalty at £100 fine and also twelve months Imprisonment. One of the clauses safeguarded Protestant advantage by enacting, "That nothing in this Act shall extend to the teaching the Arts or Exercise of Music, Drawing, Dancing, Fencing or Riding only." But the Bill was rejected by the House of Lords.

On the 3rd of July in the House of Lords Earl Ferrers made a Motion, "That an Humble Address be Presented to his Majesty to request that he will be graciously pleas'd to give directions to the Right Rev^d the Archbishops & Bishops to Procure from their Parochial Clergy, an Account of the Papists or Reputed Papists, and to cause the same to be Laid before the House in the first Day of the next Session of Parliament."

Meanwhile throughout the summer arrested rioters were being sentenced to hanging or transportation or were reprieved. But these were not the ring-leaders who organised the riots. Only Lord George Gordon among the Protestant Association leaders was arrested. Burke wrote, "I pray that it may be recollected

that the chief delinquents have hitherto escaped; and very many of those who are fallen into the hands of justice are a poor thoughtless set of creatures very little aware of the nature of their offence. None of the list-makers, the assemblers of the mob, the directors and arrangers have been convicted. The preachers of mischief remain safe, and are wicked enough not to feel for their deluded disciples; no, not at all."

After a month Lord Viscount Stormont, Secretary of State, sent the following letter to the Archbishops:-

"St. James's Augt. 4th. 1780.

My Lord, I have the honor to inclose to your Grace, Copy of an Order for an Address presented to the King by the House of Lords, and I am commanded by his Majesty to signify to you his pleasure, that you shou'd in compliance with the same, give Directions to all the Bishops, your Suffragans, to procure from the Parochial Clergy in their respective Diocese, an Account of the Papists or reputed Papists within their several Parishes and Jurisdictions, and that you procure the like yourselfe in your own particular Diocese; And you will have the same ready to be laid before the House of Lords on the first day of the next Session of Parliament. I am, with great Truth & Respect,

My Lord, Your Grace's most obedient humble Servant

Stormont."

Before the end of the session Lord North carried an Address to the Crown that an exact account of loss and damage arising from the riots should be taken. The claims and payments for these gave rise to records which can be seen in the Public Record Office (Works 6.III, Gordon Riots, 1780, Claims for Damages) and the record offices of the County of Middlesex and the Corporation of the City of London. Earl Mansfield, Sir George Savile and Lord Petre all seem to have refused compensation.

From a speech of Earl Ferrers in the House of Lords on Monday March 12th 1781, reported in the "Manchester Mercury" it appears that the Accounts or Returns of Papists "were delivered in last Monday was se'nnight." From them he attempted to show

that "The Increase of Papists in this Realm has of late Years been very great." He wanted consideration, "whether at this Period it may not be proper to place some Restrictions on Papists." "Deeply impressed with this idea, and truly uninfluenced by any Prejudice, I hope I may be permitted to bring in a Bill on Thursday se'nnight, the 29th of this Inst. to repeal all Acts relative to Roman Catholics, and that a salutary one may be formed, laying them under certain Restrictions in the purchase of Lands, and keeping of Schools, which may tend to our Security, and not interfere with their Happiness and Tranquility." Two speeches by Bishop Porteus of Chester, later of London, showed that the small increase in the number of Papists, more than a third of whom were in his diocese, was due to the general increase in population and that the laws already in force were sufficient to prevent the Growth of Popery; and the motion was withdrawn.

The returns showed that there were 69,376 Papists in England and Wales in 1780 as against 67,916 in 1767. In the House of Lords Record Office there is among others "A Return of the Number of Papists or reputed Papists in the Diocese of London in Obedience to his Majesty's Commands in the Year 1780", signed 'R. London' and endorsed '1780 London Return of Papists Nov^r 24th.' Like the others it gives totals parish by parish, showing 13,379 Papists in the diocese as against 12,020 in 1767. Pages 4 and 5 give the Essex figures as follows:-

Essex.

Ardleigh	5	Chigwell	4	Hornchurch	1
Baddow Mag	2	Childerditch	5	Horndon East	46
Blackmore	2	Downham	1	Horndon West	
Braintree	6	Epping	3	and Ingrave	88
Braxted par	1	Fryerning	5	Ingatestone	39
Burstead Mag	26	Hadstock	160	Keldon alias	
Butsbury	15	Ham East	59	Easterford	1

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Kelvedon Hatch	16	Okendon North	5	Stock	23
Laver Magdalen	1	Ongar Chipping	2	Waltham Abbey	5
Lawford	2	Ongar High	1	Walthamstow	32
Leighton	34	Orsett	15	Warley Mag.	6
Margaretting	12	Ramsden Belhouse	4	Warley Parv.	1
Mistley with		Rochford	2	Wickham St.Paul's	4
Manningtree	1	Shenfield	6	Willingale Doc	1
Mountnessing	6	Southweald	87	Witham	85
Navestock	4	Stanford le Hope	1		
Notley Black	3	Stanford Rivers	11		<u>839</u>

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Unlike the Papist Returns for 1705/6 and 1767, no Essex names are available, except for three Essex returns, (for Blackmore and Stondon Massey, Orsett and Childerditch) which are in the archives of the Catholic Record Society. However comparisons can be made. There were 719 Essex Papists in 1767; 650 with 6 priests were known to Bishop Challoner when he reported 24,000 Catholics in the London Vicariate in a letter to Propaganda of Sept 10th, 1773. They had increased to 839 in the year of the Gordon Riots, while only 303 were known in 1706.

EDW. S. WORRALL.